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Presentation at the American Corner Skopje

International Education and US Government Scholarships

With Dr. David McGaffey, Assistant Public Affairs Officer Amy Storrow and Fulbright Alumni Shpetim Latifi

Monday, April 27, 2009

Whenever there is a presentation about scholarships offered by the U.S. Government, the American Corner Skopje becomes a venue too small to accommodate the great number of attendees. In front of 44 attendees, Dr. David McGaffey, who has worked in the Fulbright Commission in 5 other countries, opened the presentation in an unusual way, comparing studying abroad to an entrepreneurial activity, similar to starting your own business. He described what a day full of mini shocks would look like, emphasizing the pressure everyone is going to face when abroad! Shpetim Latifi, Fulbright Alumni who has recently returned from Purdue University pointed out that regardless of what was previously said by Dr. McGaffey, it's an experience not to miss, and that if you don't try, you've already failed! Furthermore, the most important thing about the Fulbright was not the education as everyone expected it to be, but your goal how you are going to strive to promote cultures between your home country and the US! Amy Storrow, Assistant Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy Skopje, reminded the audience to keep track of deadlines and look for opportunities by letting their curious nature come to the surface in order to conduct a more thorough research; always having in mind the audience they are preparing their application for. "Imagine your self as a good citizen diplomat of Macedonia in the US," was how she concluded her talk. Gordana Mircic, the educational advisor at the American Corner Skopje, answered questions that were not about the Fulbright specifically and were about regular admission to a US university or some other exchange programs available. Many of the attendees stayed long after the presentation to talk to the presenters in person.

